

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 45-52 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claims 41-45, 47-49, and 51-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0229213 to Ellis et al. ("*Ellis*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,666 to Portuesi ("*Portues*"); allowed claims 1-40; and objected to claims 46 and 50 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has canceled claims 41-54, and has added claims 55-66. Claims 1-40 and 55-66 remain pending.

In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-40 (Office Action at page 8), Applicant has canceled claims 41-54, without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, rendering the §112 and §103 rejections moot. Applicants submit that pending claims 1-40 and 55-66 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09812.0167-00
Application No. 09/944,848

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 28, 2007

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